sending, from the control panel to the at least one audible alarm, a control signal that the at least one audible alarm interprets to control audible output from the at least one audible alarm.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, further comprising providing power to the audible alarms over the pair of lines.

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are presently pending. Claims 26 and 27 have been added herein. Support for these claims includes the specification at page 2, lines 3-24, and page 3, line 9 through page 4, line 24 and Figures 1 and 2. No new matter has been added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Issa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,534,845).

Issa et al. is directed to an automotive automation/vehicle security system in which a radio-frequency (RF) remote-control transmitter 25 is used to control a control module 29 (see Figure 1). The output volume of the siren is controlled by varying the duty cycle of the siren power supply during siren chirps (see Column 5, lines 47-61 and Column 19, lines 16-44). The user has the ability to change the decibel level of the audible arm/disarm notification outputs as well as to turn them off, using the hand-held remote-control transmitter 25.

Each independent claim of the present application has been amended to recite a building fire alarm system. It is respectfully submitted that this limitation alone patentably distinguishes over Issa et al. because Issa et al. fail to teach or suggest the use of a fire alarm system, much less a fire alarm system for a building.

The independent claims are believed to patentably distinguish over Issa et al. The claims have generally been amended to recite the inventive concept of a system controller or control panel that controls audible alarms connectable to the system controller by a pair of lines. The audible alarms include a controller that controls the audible output in response to a remote control signal that is carried along the pair of lines from the system controller. Beneficially, the system controller 14, in one embodiment, can supply power over the same pair of lines that are used to carry the control signal to control the audible alarm output. It is respectfully submitted that Issa et al. fail to teach or suggest these additional limitations, and therefore each claim of the present application is in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1. (Twice Amended) An audible alarm for use in [an] a building fire alarm system, the audible alarm producing a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals which are selectable in response to a remote control signal, the audible alarm being connectable to a control panel by a pair of lines, the audible alarm including a controller that controls the audible alarm in response to the remote control signal.

5. (Amended) The audible alarm of Claim 1, wherein the controller is a microcontroller that receives the control signal from [a] the control panel over [a] the pair of lines.

10. (Twice Amended) An audible alarm for use in [an] a building fire alarm system that produces a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals, the audible alarm being controlled by a remote control signal[, which selects at least one of the distinct audible alarm signals,] that can be sent over a notification appliance circuit, the audible alarm including a controller that can receive the control signal and select at least one of the distinct audible alarm signals for the audible alarm to produce.

14. (Amended) The audible alarm of Claim 10, [further comprising] wherein the controller is a microcontroller at the audible alarm that controls the audible alarm.

16. (Twice Amended) An audible alarm for use in [an] a building fire alarm system, comprising:

an alarm generator to generate a plurality of distinct, audible alarm signals; and

an alarm signal selector responsive to a remote control signal applied to the audible alarm from a pair of lines connectable to the audible alarm from a control panel.

18. (Amended) The audible alarm of Claim 16, wherein the [alarm generator receives the control signal from a control panel over a] pair of lines [which also] supply power to the audible alarm [over the pair of lines].

19. (Twice Amended) [An] A building fire alarm system comprising:

at least one audible alarm to generate plural distinct audible alarm signals; and

a system controller coupled to the audible alarm by a pair of lines, the system controller providing power over the pair of lines and sending a control signal over the pair of lines for directing the audible alarm to selectively produce the plural distinct audible alarm signals.

20. (Amended) The [audible] alarm system of Claim 19, further comprising a microcontroller at the audible alarm that controls the audible alarm in response to the control signal.

21. (Amended) The [audible] alarm system of Claim 19, wherein the audible alarm produces a prerecorded voice message.

22. (Twice Amended) A method of controlling [an] a building fire alarm system, comprising:

providing an audible alarm coupled to a remote controller by a pair of lines; and

controlling, with the remote controller, the audible alarm to selectively produce a plurality of distinct audible alarm signals by sending a control signal along the pair of lines, the audible alarm including a controller that controls the audible alarm to produce the plurality of distinct audible alarm signals according to the control signal.

25. (Amended) A method for controlling an audible alarm in [an] a building fire alarm system comprising dynamically changing, with encoded signals over a power line, audible tones or patterns of the audible alarm.